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Berkshire County Council

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The area of the administrative county of Berkshire is 454,725 acres.

In accordance with circular 2604 all tabular matter and figures relating to current populations have been omitted.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES.

During the year, 4,452 live births were registered for the area of the administrative county. Compared with the figure for 1941 an increase of 413 births is shown.

One hundred still births, 32 of which occurred in urban and 68 in rural districts were recorded.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

During the year, 3,127 deaths were registered, a decrease of 185 as compared with the number recorded in the previous year ; 1,926 of the recorded deaths were in respect of persons over 65 years of age.

The principal registered causes of death are shown in the following table :—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	806
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	479
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	326
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	282
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	83
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	81

CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer registered in 1942 is 479, as compared with 501 for the previous year.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER INTO VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Age groups	...	1-15 yrs.	15-45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.
No. of deaths	...	4	33	169	273

INFANT MORTALITY.

166 deaths of children under the age of one year were registered during the year. Of this number 117 were certified as being due to congenital debility and premature birth. As compared with the corresponding rates for the period 1932-1941 the infant mortality rate for 1942 shows a decrease.

TABLE I.
INFANT MORTALITY.
(Per 1,000 live births).

				Average Rate, 1932-1941.	Rate, 1942.	Number of Deaths, 1942.
URBAN DISTRICTS.						
1	Abingdon Borough	...	...	37.62	29.58	5
2	Maidenhead Borough	...	...	52.48	48.50	20
3	Newbury Borough	...	...	40.54	34.84	10
4	New Windsor Borough	...	...	49.92	63.82	21
5	Wallingford Borough	...	...	36.72	16.39	1
6	Wantage	...	...	41.74	26.31	2
7	Wokingham	...	...	36.88	21.42	3
RURAL DISTRICTS.						
1	Abingdon	...	...	40.97	19.09	8
2	Bradfield	...	...	46.74	46.51	12
3	Cookham	...	...	50.60	45.00	9
4	Easthampstead	...	...	38.94	38.69	13
5	Faringdon	...	...	33.46	9.09	2
6	Hungerford	...	...	40.67	19.10	3
7	Newbury	...	...	34.24	46.72	10
8	Wallingford	...	...	48.62	32.65	8
9	Wantage	...	...	42.01	52.88	11
10	Windsor	...	...	38.28	69.14	13
11	Wokingham	...	...	45.27	28.08	15
Urban Districts				45.54	42.05	62
Rural Districts				42.31	34.92	104
County				43.36	35.04	166

The death rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years), per 1,000 births, is 2.9.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During 1942, 7 maternal deaths, 1 of which was attributed to puerperal sepsis, were registered. The maternal mortality rate of 1.5 per 1,000 births is the lowest recorded for the county in the past ten years.

Table showing the maternal mortality rate for the past 10 years :—

TABLE II.

Year.	Total (Live and Still) Births.	Deaths from		Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births.
		Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Maternal Causes.	
1933	3,173	3	5	2.5
1934	3,183	6	14	6.2
1935	3,266	8	4	3.6
1936	3,242	6	8	4.3
1937	3,307	1	8	2.7
1938	3,239	3	5	2.4
1939	3,487	4	8	3.4
1940	3,856	2	5	2.0
1941	4,438	1	7	1.8
1942	4,552	1	6	1.5

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The arrangements made by the County Council to fulfil their statutory obligations under the Midwives Act, 1936, still prove adequate to meet the demands made on this particular service.

At the end of the year 169 midwives were practising in the county area. Of these, 106 were engaged in domiciliary midwifery practice and 63 were employed in either general hospitals, public assistance institutions or nursing homes. The Council's scheme provides for the employment of 5 whole-time midwives, 3 of whom have been allocated to special districts and 2 to undertake duties in any area in which a midwife is required for holiday duty, illness, etc.

Of the total number of midwives practising in the county area, 91 were employed by district nursing associations. There were 63 such associations undertaking midwifery in the area of the administrative county. Of this number, 53 were affiliated to the Berkshire County Nursing Association, 5 were independent of that body and 5, although undertaking midwifery in Berkshire, are located in adjoining areas.

Table showing the number of cases attended by midwives in the area of the Local Supervising Authority during the year :—

	Domiciliary cases.	Cases at Institutions.	Totals.
1. Employed by the Council—			
As midwives	165	522	687
As maternity nurses	16	22	38
2. Normally employed by other Local Supervising Authorities, but temporarily working in the area—			
As midwives	—	1,003	1,003
As maternity nurses	—	—	—
3. Employed by Voluntary Associations—			
(a) Under arrangement with Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act—			
As midwives	1,582	—	1,582
As maternity nurses	489	—	489
(b) Others—			
As midwives	—	227	227
As maternity nurses	—	557	557
4. In private practice—			
As midwives	122	143	265
As maternity nurses	32	257	289
Totals—			
As midwives	1,869	1,895	3,764
As maternity nurses	537	836	1,373

Compared with the figure for 1941, there is a decrease in the number of domiciliary cases, and an increase in the number of Institutional cases attended.

Table classifying notifications received, under the Rules of the Central Midwives Board, by the Local Supervising Authority :—

Sending for medical aid	1,095
Stillbirth	27
Laying out a dead body	33
Artificial feeding	59
Contact with infection	48
Death of infant	16
Death of mother	—

The number of cases in which medical aid was sought by midwives shows a decrease compared with the figure of 1,140 for the previous year.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The non-medical supervisors of midwives visited all midwives periodically and submitted reports on the results of their investigations to the County Medical Officer. They also visited and submitted reports on all cases of either puerperal fever or ophthalmia neonatorum.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

ANTE NATAL SERVICE.

The importance of efficient ante natal supervision for patients is repeatedly brought to the notice of midwives and it is satisfactory to note that increased use has been made during the past year of the County Council's scheme. During the year, 1,664 patients were examined under the provisions of this scheme—again an increase as compared with the number recorded for the preceding year. During 1942, 14,876 visits were made to expectant mothers and records compiled in respect of each case.

Ante natal clinics were held at the following hospitals :—

The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

POST NATAL EXAMINATION.

All midwives are urged to instruct their patients in regard to the importance and advantages of a medical examination towards the end of the lying-in period. 665 patients were examined during 1942, a slightly lower figure than that recorded for the previous year.

PROVISION FOR THE SERVICES OF A CONSULTANT.

The services of a consultant, free of cost to the patient, are available to any medical practitioner who may desire assistance in respect of a domiciliary maternity case either during pregnancy, at the time of confinement or during the puerperium.

During 1942, 56 such consultations were held, compared with 46 for the previous year. A circular containing the names of the consultants who had consented to act under the provisions of this scheme has been sent to all doctors practising in the area of the administrative county.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

Arrangements have been made whereby all patients suffering from those complications of pregnancy which require treatment in a maternity department of a general hospital, can be admitted to one or other of the following institutions :—

The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.
Swindon Borough Maternity Home, Swindon.
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

Table showing the number of patients admitted to these hospitals during the past five years :—

HOSPITAL.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
Radcliffe Infirmary	33	57	56	47	52
Royal Berkshire Hospital	59	72	97	116	147
King Edward VII Hospital	2	17	16	17	23
Swindon Borough Maternity Home	1	—	5	4	1
	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 146	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 184	<hr/> 223

Five hundred and eighty-two cases of uncomplicated pregnancy in which it was considered that either the home or financial circumstances were such that adequate care and attention was unlikely to be otherwise secured, were admitted to the maternity wards of the County Council Emergency Hospitals at Maidenhead, Newbury, Wallingford, Wantage, Wokingham or Old Windsor.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year 31 patients suffering from puerperal pyrexia, 12 of whom were admitted to hospital, were notified. One death occurred. Special investigations were made in all cases and instructions regarding adequate preventive measures given.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Twelve cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified, three of which necessitated hospital treatment. All the cases were visited and from reports submitted, it is found that there was no impairment of vision as the result of the disease.

SUPPLY OF EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

Dried milk, cod liver oil, etc., is supplied either free of charge or at cost price to mothers and children at many of the welfare centres in the county area.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Thirty applications for dental treatment received approval during the year and all necessary arrangements were made for the work to be undertaken by private dental practitioners.

STERILISED MATERNITY OUTFITS.

During the year 20 sterilised maternity outfits were supplied, free of cost, to patients whose home circumstances were such that the provision of an outfit was desirable.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

All Infant Welfare Centres situated in the county area are managed by local voluntary committees who arrange for the periodical attendance of a medical practitioner at the centres. Either a county health visitor or a district nurse is in attendance each time a centre is open. At certain clinics, special sessions are held for toddlers.

During the year, 1,556 children attended for the first time at the 35 welfare centres situated in the county area. This is a very slight decrease as compared with the previous year's figures.

HEALTH VISITING.

Domiciliary visits, to children under 5 years of age, are made at frequent intervals and health records compiled in respect of each child. During the year, 20,965 visits were made to children under the age of 1 year and 28,509 to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. The figures for the previous year are 21,524 and 30,551 respectively.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS.

Children under the age of 5 years suffering from either dental or visual defects are referred for treatment to one or other of the clinics of the Berkshire Education Authority. During the year 64 children with visual defects and 29 with dental disease were treated. Nine children suffering from crippling diseases received treatment at the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Headington, and 1 at St. Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital, Pinner.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

At December 31st, 1942, there were 94 persons undertaking for reward the maintenance and care of 131 children under the age of nine years apart from their parents or having no parents. All such boarded-out children are visited at regular intervals by the Child Life Protection Visitors who are members of either the whole-time county health visiting or school nursing staff. The standard of care and attention given to boarded-out children by foster parents is satisfactory.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

At December 31st, 1942, there were 38 registered nursing homes in the area of the administrative county. Of this number 12 undertook general medical and surgical work, 7 admitted maternity cases only, and the remainder provided for the nursing of either convalescent or senile patients.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

During the year 3,178 notifications of births occurring in the area of the administrative county were received—an increase of 176 compared with the previous year. Records of all notifications of birth are forwarded to the appropriate health visitor in order that home visitation may be arranged.

VACCINATION.

The vaccination officer reports that 2,699 certificates of successful primary vaccination and 1,644 declarations of conscientious objection to vaccination were received during the year. The corresponding figures for the previous year are 1,970 and 1,631 respectively.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The full services of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme have been extended to all expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age who have been evacuated to various parts of the administrative county. The following Maternity Homes and Hostels have also been opened under the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

MATERNITY HOMES.

Folly Farm, Sulhamstead.	Oakley House, Frilford Heath.
"Rashleighs," Maidenhead.	

ANTE-NATAL HOSTELS.

Brooklands, Abingdon.	White Lodge, Maidenhead.
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POST-NATAL HOSTEL.

"Eboracum," Wokingham.

The following statistics, compiled up to and including September 30th, 1943, refer to patients evacuated under the above Scheme.

Number of expectant mothers confined in emergency maternity homes	3,059
Number of expectant mothers confined in the maternity wards of the County Council Emergency Hospitals	455
Number of expectant mothers confined in private nursing homes	248
Number of expectant mothers confined in billets	552

Twenty-two evacuated expectant mothers applied for dental treatment, under the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, of which 16 were approved and have received the necessary treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1942, primary notifications under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, were received for 283 Pulmonary and 105 Non-pulmonary cases, making a total of 388 for all forms of tuberculosis.

This is an increase compared with the previous year, and with pre-war years.

TABLE III.

ANNUAL NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 1932.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1932	172	68	240
1933	183	46	229
1934	153	43	196
1935	198	47	245
1936	196	49	245
1937	163	35	198
1938	145	55	200
1939	176	67	243
1940	246	86	332
1941	236	90	326
1942	283	105	388

MORTALITY.—The number of certified deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 112. Of these 83 were due to pulmonary and 29 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

TABLE IV.

ALL NEW CASES AND ALL DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS
CLASSIFIED INTO THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS FOR THE YEAR
1942.

Age Periods.	All New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	4	...	...	...	2	...	2	3
1—5	1	1	19	6	3	...	4	...
5—15	4	2	24	16	1	...	4	2
15—45	98	107	13	20	20	23	5	7
45—65	35	24	4	10	17	5	1	1
65 and up- wards	9	5	1	...	11	1	...	...
Totals ...	151	139	61	52	54	29	16	13

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

Treatment was provided by the County Council in the following institutions :—

Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.

Number of adult cases admitted	...	...	...	...	136
" " " " discharged	...	...	...	...	118
" " children admitted	...	...	...	...	26
" " " discharged	...	...	...	...	22

Abingdon Sanatorium.

Number admitted	...	...	...	...	43
" discharged	...	...	...	...	39

SURGICAL CASES.

Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital and Cold Ash Children's Hospital. Twenty-six cases of tuberculosis disease of bones and joints were admitted and 28 were discharged.

Seven pulmonary cases were admitted to either Harefield Sanatorium or Prior Place, Camberley, for major surgical treatment.

Seventeen pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria not provided by the Berkshire Authority.

Thirty non-pulmonary cases were treated at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, 11 at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, 2 at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Little Remenham, Bracknell, 1 at All Saints' Hospital, Eastbourne, 2 at Morland Hall, Alton, 1 at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, 1 at Rycote Park Hospital, Oxfordshire, 1 at Heatherwood, Ascot, and 1 at the Warren Hospital, Abingdon.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

During the year, 802 new cases and 202 contacts were examined. Of this number, 349 were considered to be tuberculous, 622 not tuberculous and 33 were not diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis but were kept under observation. The total attendances at the dispensaries was 2,358.

The Tuberculosis Officer had 47 personal and 1,876 other consultations with medical practitioners. 3,464 home visits were made by the Tuberculosis Officer and 2,865 visits by Health Visitors and District Nurses. The number of radiological examinations was 1,084.

COLLAPSE THERAPY.

The number of patients receiving artificial pneumo-thorax refills, which was given by the Tuberculosis Officer at their homes, has greatly increased. The number of refills given was 1,900.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

746 specimens of sputum were examined and tubercle bacilli were found in 89 of these specimens.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of diphtheria notified during the year was 91, as compared with 146 in the previous year. The district in which the disease was most prevalent (21 cases) was Hungerford Rural. The number of cases removed to isolation hospitals was 87. Six deaths were reported as being due to this disease.

During the year 2,680 children between 1 and 5 years and 5,319 children between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised against diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

Four hundred and sixty-eight cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, the same figure as that of the previous year. The districts in which the disease was most prevalent were Wokingham Rural District (106 cases), Maidenhead Borough (67 cases) and New Windsor Borough (41 cases). Three hundred and twenty-one cases were removed to isolation hospitals. One death occurred from the disease.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER.

Seven cases of typhoid fever were notified, 1 of which occurred in Hungerford Rural District, 5 in Wallingford Rural District and 1 in Wantage Rural District. All of the cases were removed to hospital.

Two cases of paratyphoid fever were notified, of which 1 occurred in New Windsor Borough and the other in Windsor Rural District. One case was admitted to hospital. No deaths were reported from these diseases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Thirty-seven cases were notified and 4 deaths from this disease were reported.

POLIOMYELITIS.

The number of cases notified was 9, of which 6 were removed to hospital.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Measles proved to be the most prevalent of notifiable diseases during the year, 558 cases being reported. No deaths from measles were registered. Two hundred and eighty-six cases of whooping cough were notified, and 2 deaths from this disease were reported.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<i>Hospital.</i>		<i>No. of Beds.</i>
Abingdon Isolation Hospital	50
Maidenhead Isolation Hospital	54
Newbury Isolation Hospital	22 (including 6 cots).
Wallingford Isolation Hospital	34

SMALLPOX.

The County Council have made arrangements enabling any case of smallpox occurring in the county area to be admitted to the Reading County Borough Smallpox Hospital, Manor Farm, Reading.

TABLE V.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1942.

DISEASES NOTIFIED.	Cases notified in Urban Districts.								Cases notified in Rural Districts.												
	Abingdon Borough.	Maidenhead Borough.	Newbury Borough.	New Windsor Borough.	Wallingford Borough.	Wantage Borough.	Wokingham Borough.	Total Urban Districts	Abingdon.	Bradfield.	Cookham.	Easthampstead.	Faringdon.	Hungerford.	Newbury.	Wallingford.	Wantage.	Windsor.	Wokingham.	Total Rural Districts.	Total County.
1 Smallpox ...	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	37	6	1	3	8	1	21	2	1	4	1	6	54	..
2 Diphtheria and Membranous Group	..	4	..	3	1	..	1	9	7	..	1	1	..	2	3	25	2	1	..	42	51
3 Erysipelas...	27	67	16	41	2	9	3	165	43	24	19	22	18	8	20	11	23	9	106	303	468
4 Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	1	..	..	7	7
5 Typhoid ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6 Paratyphoid ..	..	..	5	5	1	..	..	1	6	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	1	25	48
7 Puerperal Pyrexia	5	2	2	7	1	..	..	23	4	3	..	..	..	1	4	2	2	4	..	20	37
8 Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	17	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	5	9
9 Poliomyelitis ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11 Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	5	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	9	14
12 Pneumonia ..	6	7	2	7	12	..	3	37	9	28	6	12	10	6	11	2	4	6	17	111	148
13 Dysentery...	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..	3	3	1	..	..	50	..	22	..	78	83
14 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	37	17	20	2	6	9	106	24	18	17	20	7	6	11	12	13	8	36	172	278
15 Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary	7	9	7	8	1	..	2	34	11	7	8	5	6	1	8	9	4	5	8	72	106
16 Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6
18 Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19 Pemphigus Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 Measles ...	3	21	4	..	18	6	8	60	40	17	54	166	7	5	39	35	10	67	58	498	558
21 Whooping Cough...	16	2	1	..	2	12	2	35	35	28	37	14	12	24	28	1	13	29	30	251	286
Totals	97	168	58	103	40	44	28	538	189	143	145	256	63	75	127	155	79	158	264	1654	2192

TABLE VI.—TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS AND REMOVALS TO HOSPITAL.

The number of Cases treated in Hospital is in each instance inserted in brackets.

	Smallpox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.			Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.			Totals.		
	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942
URBAN DISTRICTS.															
1 Abingdon Borough	26 (26)	8 (8)	27 (26)	3 (3)	3 (3)	1 (1)	...	...	...	29 (29)	11 (11)	28 (27)
2 Maidenhead Borough	39 (36)	40 (35)	67 (56)	32 (30)	70 (64)	15 (15)	1	...	...	76 (67)	111 (99)	82 (71)
3 Newbury Borough	11 (5)	22 (12)	16 (9)	3 (3)	3 (3)	2 (2)	...	...	...	14 (8)	25 (15)	18 (11)
4 New Windsor Borough	28 (22)	51 (39)	41 (29)	13 (6)	...	8 (8)	1 (1)	...	1 (1)	42 (29)	51 (39)	50 (38)
5 Wallingford Borough	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)	...	...	...	...	...	3 (3)	1 (1)	2 (1)
6 Wantage	26 (22)	10 (8)	9 (8)	...	2 (1)	11 (11)	...	...	...	26 (22)	12 (9)	20 (19)
7 Wokingham Borough	20 (14)	6 (4)	3 (3)	15 (10)	6 (6)	...	...	...	...	35 (24)	12 (10)	3 (3)
Totals	151 (126)	138 (107)	165 (132)	68 (54)	84 (77)	37 (37)	1	...	1 (1)	225 (182)	223 (184)	203 (170)
RURAL DISTRICTS.															
1 Abingdon	34 (31)	38 (34)	43 (37)	5 (5)	9 (9)	6 (6)	...	...	...	40 (37)	47 (43)	49 (43)
2 Bradfield	13 (7)	72 (34)	24 (6)	3 (3)	5 (4)	1 (1)	...	...	...	16 (10)	77 (38)	25 (7)
3 Cookham	10 (7)	48 (38)	19 (13)	19 (21)	13 (13)	3 (2)	...	...	...	29 (28)	61 (51)	22 (15)
4 Easthampstead	26 (22)	53 (33)	22 (17)	22 (22)	7 (7)	8 (8)	...	...	...	48 (44)	60 (40)	30 (25)
5 Faringdon	18 (6)	7 (3)	18 (10)	2 (1)	3 (3)	1 (1)	...	...	...	20 (7)	10 (6)	19 (11)
6 Hungerford	10 (4)	16 (8)	8 (5)	1 (1)	...	21 (21)	...	...	1 (1)	11 (5)	16 (8)	30 (27)
7 Newbury	18 (1)	16 (11)	20 (9)	2 (2)	5 (4)	2 (2)	...	...	...	20 (3)	22 (16)	18 (11)
8 Wallingford	13 (7)	4 (4)	11 (8)	31 (31)	3 (3)	1 (1)	1 (1)	11 (11)	5 (5)	45 (39)	18 (18)	17 (14)
9 Wantage	10 (6)	17 (11)	23 (6)	2 (2)	4 (4)	4 (1)	...	...	1 (1)	12 (8)	21 (15)	28 (8)
10 Windsor	11 (6)	18 (17)	9 (5)	1 (1)	6 (5)	1 (1)	...	...	1	12 (7)	24 (22)	11 (6)
11 Wokingham	46 (36)	55 (35)	106 (73)	58 (34)	11 (11)	6 (6)	...	...	...	104 (70)	66 (46)	112 (79)
Totals	209 (133)	344 (228)	303 (189)	146 (123)	66 (63)	54 (50)	2 (2)	12 (12)	8 (7)	357 (258)	422 (303)	361 (246)

TABLE VII.

EPIDEMIC MORTALITY DURING TEN YEARS, 1932-1941.

		TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS.							
		Principal Epidemic Diseases.	Small- pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarr- hoea.
URBAN DISTRICTS.									
1	Abingdon Borough ...	8	...	4	...	2	...	1	1
2	Maidenhead Borough	31	...	6	2	13	1	...	9
3	Newbury Borough ...	24	...	6	...	6	2	1	9
4	New Windsor Borough	29	...	6	...	7	8	...	8
5	Wallingford Borough	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
6	Wantage ...	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
7	Wokingham Borough	9	...	1	2	4	...	...	2
RURAL DISTRICTS.									
1	Abingdon ...	19	...	3	...	2	7	...	7
2	Bradfield ...	18	...	1	1	4	4	1	7
3	Cookham ...	12	...	1	1	2	3	1	4
4	Easthampstead ...	13	...	2	...	3	5	1	2
5	Faringdon ...	14	...	1	3	2	2	...	6
6	Hungerford ...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
7	Newbury ...	13	...	1	2	6	1	...	3
8	Wallingford ...	17	...	1	1	4	3	...	8
9	Wantage ...	10	...	1	2	1	3	...	3
10	Windsor ...	9	...	3	1	...	...	2	3
11	Wokingham ...	38	...	6	1	8	11	6	6
Urban Districts ...		109	...	25	4	34	11	2	33
Rural Districts ...		167	...	20	12	34	39	11	51
County ...		276	...	45	16	68	50	13	84

TABLE VIII.—CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, 1942.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BERKS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the County.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years,	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	4	1	...	...	2	1	...
Scarlet fever... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	6	...	2	1	3	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory System	83	2	3	1	43	22	12
Other forms of tuberculosis	29	5	4	6	12	2	...
Syphilitic diseases	30	...	...	1	8	14	7
Influenza	20	...	1	...	3	3	13
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute infantile encephalitis	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	59	...	...	...	4	26	29
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	78	...	...	...	7	25	46
Cancer of breast	62	...	...	...	4	27	31
Cancer of all other sites	280	...	2	2	18	91	167
Diabetes	29	...	...	1	...	6	22
Intra cranial vascular lesions	326	...	...	...	8	62	256
Heart disease	806	...	1	2	31	147	625
Other diseases of circulatory system	81	...	...	...	1	10	70
Bronchitis	162	4	1	...	1	28	128
Pneumonia	120	17	14	...	11	17	61
Other respiratory diseases	31	2	2	...	3	11	13
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	24	1	...	...	3	15	5
Diarrhoea under two years	13	12	1	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	13	...	...	4	2	2	5
Other digestive diseases	69	4	1	2	8	15	39
Nephritis	61	...	...	...	13	16	32
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other maternal causes	6	...	...	...	6	...	...
Premature birth	55	55	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital malformation birth injuries, infantile diseases	62	52	3	1	6	...	...
Suicide	24	...	...	1	9	10	4
Road traffic accidents	64	...	3	6	23	20	12
Other violent causes	80	3	5	11	25	13	23
All other causes	443	6	6	8	34	64	325
All causes	3127	166	50	47	290	648	1926

TABLE IX.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1942.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths belonging to all Urban Districts.							Deaths belonging to each District (at all ages)						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.	Abingdon Borough.	Maidenhead Borough.	Newbury Borough.	New Windsor Borough.	Wallingford Borough.	Wantage.	Wokingham Borough.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	37	1	2	1	17	11	5	6	15	4	11	...	...	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	11	2	1	2	5	1	...	...	5	3	2	...	...	1
Syphilitic diseases	13	...	...	...	4	8	1	...	5	1	5	...	1	1
Influenza	9	...	...	...	1	2	6	1	1	...	3	...	2	2
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute infantile encephalitis	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
uterus (F)	24	...	...	...	2	11	11	2	9	1	7	1	2	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	32	...	...	...	3	15	14	1	9	10	5	3	2	2
Cancer of breast	14	...	...	...	...	8	6	...	2	4	5	...	...	3
Cancer of all other sites	105	...	...	1	7	36	61	10	29	16	29	5	6	10
Diabetes	10	...	...	...	...	2	8	2	1	1	1	...	1	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	133	...	...	...	2	21	110	11	34	35	28	4	7	14
Heart disease	309	...	...	1	12	52	244	13	96	63	64	14	19	40
Other diseases of circulatory system	41	...	...	...	...	4	37	5	10	10	12	2	...	2
Bronchitis	69	2	...	...	...	18	49	11	19	12	12	4	4	7
Pneumonia	44	8	4	...	3	5	24	2	7	8	17	5	3	2
Other respiratory diseases	17	1	...	...	3	7	6	3	2	4	6	1	1	...
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	6	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	1
Diarrhoea under two years	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1
Appendicitis	4	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Other digestive diseases	22	...	...	1	3	6	12	3	5	7	2	1	4	...
Nephritis	24	...	...	...	8	5	11	3	6	3	9	...	1	2
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Premature birth	25	25	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	6	9	1	...	...
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	20	16	1	1	2	...	...	3	5	3	5	...	2	2
Suicide	8	...	...	...	2	5	1	...	5	1	1	...	...	1
Road traffic accidents	12	...	...	1	4	4	3	1	3	1	2	...	3	2
Other violent causes	32	...	2	3	9	8	10	5	6	6	10	2	...	3
All other causes	158	2	4	2	11	17	122	26	29	28	33	5	7	30
All causes	1192	62*	14	16	106	250	744	114	317	229	282	49	66	135

TABLE X.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1942.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths belonging to all Rural Districts.							Deaths belonging to each District (at all ages).										
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up-wards.	Abingdon	Bradfield	Cookham	Easthampstead	Faringdon	Hungerford	Newbury	Wallingford	Wantage	Windsor	Wokingham
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria	5	...	2	...	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	46	1	1	...	26	11	7	5	2	5	8	5	3	1	2	8	3	4
Other forms of tuberculosis	18	3	3	4	7	1	...	...	...	1	4	2	1	1	2	...	3	4
Syphilitic diseases	17	...	...	1	4	6	6	1	...	3	2	1	1	2	3	...	...	4
Influenza	11	...	1	...	2	1	7	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	4	1
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute infantile encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
uterus (F)	35	...	...	...	2	15	18	5	4	2	4	3	2	1	4	3	1	6
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	46	...	...	...	4	10	32	6	4	3	4	6	2	1	6	3	...	11
Cancer of breast	48	...	...	...	4	19	25	6	6	5	5	3	4	2	2	3	2	10
Cancer of all other sites	175	...	2	1	1	55	106	21	22	10	27	8	11	8	13	10	15	30
Diabetes	19	...	...	1	...	4	14	3	1	1	1	3	1	...	1	3	1	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	193	...	...	...	6	41	146	15	34	16	19	13	10	13	11	17	13	32
Heart disease	497	...	1	1	19	95	381	33	43	46	51	34	44	47	34	40	38	87
Other diseases of circulatory system	40	...	...	...	1	6	33	10	5	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	6	5
Bronchitis	93	2	1	...	1	10	79	10	7	9	8	9	4	4	2	9	11	20
Pneumonia	76	9	10	...	8	12	37	6	16	6	8	4	4	5	3	7	8	9
Other respiratory diseases	15	1	3	...	...	4	7	3	1	2	2	1	...	3	...	...	2	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	18	1	...	...	...	12	5	1	4	3	3	...	2	1	...	1	3	...
Diarrhoea under two years	9	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...
Appendicitis	9	...	...	2	2	2	3	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	3
Other digestive diseases	47	4	1	1	5	9	27	2	7	6	4	1	4	2	6	4	1	10
Nephritis	37	...	...	...	5	11	21	6	4	5	2	3	2	1	1	1	5	7
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	30	30	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	1	2	2	...	1	3	2	6	5
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases	42	36	2	...	4	...	...	4	4	4	8	...	2	5	2	3	3	7
Suicide	16	...	...	1	7	5	3	2	...	3	3	1	1	...	1	1	...	4
Road traffic accidents	52	...	3	5	19	16	9	8	5	5	3	4	2	5	4	2	3	11
Other violent causes	48	3	3	8	16	5	13	11	4	4	3	...	5	7	1	4	3	6
All other causes	285	4	2	6	23	47	203	45	24	10	39	13	21	19	21	24	16	53
All causes	1935	104	36	31	184	398	1182	209	207	156	216	121	134	132	127	148	151	334

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The County Council have made arrangements for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases at clinics held at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

Patients are seen at the following times :—

THE RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, OXFORD.

Men—Wednesday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m.

Women—Monday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 3 p.m.

THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL, READING.

Men—Wednesday, 2 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m.

Women—Wednesday, 5 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m.

The following particulars have been supplied by the medical officer in charge of the clinics.

At the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, 189 cases were seen for the first time during the year. Of this number, 37 were suffering from syphilis, 70 from gonorrhoea and 82 were not suffering from venereal disease.

Of the 36 cases seen for the first time at the Radcliffe Infirmary, 11 were suffering from syphilis, 15 from gonorrhoea and 10 were not suffering from venereal disease.

The total number of attendances made by patients at the clinics was 1,787. Of this number 1,532 attendances were made at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and 255 at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

In some instances, in-patient treatment was necessary and the number of in-patient days of patients so treated amounted to 1,021.

Travelling expenses amounting to £57 10s. 0d. were paid to necessitous cases.

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

Examination of materials submitted by medical practitioners from patients suspected to be suffering from venereal disease is made in the pathological laboratories of the following hospitals :—

St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

At the end of the year 274 mentally defective persons were receiving institutional treatment. Of this number 48 were being maintained in institutions situated outside the County of Berkshire, 90 females were in-patients at the County Council's approved institutions for mental defectives at Bradfield and 136, (126 males all ages, and 10 females under 16 years of age) were in-patients at the Council's approved institution at Easthampstead. In addition, there were 3 patients who had been placed under Statutory Guardianship. During the year, inspections were made at regular intervals at both institutions by the members of the Mental Deficiency Act Committee as well as by the Board of Control's inspectors. From the reports subsequently received it would appear that the patients are being adequately cared for and that the facilities provided for the training of the defectives are satisfactory.

In 1942, 17 defective patients were admitted to institutions, 2 were discharged, 6 were released on licence and 14 died.

STATUTORY SUPERVISION.

There were 103 defectives under statutory supervision during the year. All cases were visited quarterly by the County Health Visitors, who submitted reports to the County Medical Officer.

VOLUNTARY SUPERVISION.

At the end of the year there were 114 patients under voluntary supervision. All were seen at regular intervals by the county health visitors who submitted reports to the County Medical Officer.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The report of the Berkshire County Blind Society showed that there were 328 persons on their register on 31st March, 1943, compared with 322 the previous year. During the year, 46 new cases were registered.

The total number of cases referred to the certifying ophthalmic surgeons during the year was 62 and, of these, 19 were certified as not being blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. Thirty-nine of those certified as blind were over 60 years of age.

During the year, 1 person who had previously been certified as blind was removed from the register as the sight had improved so much that the case no longer came under the definition of a blind person. Thirty blind persons died and 9 left the county to reside in other areas.

Home teachers continued their domiciliary visits to blind persons.

At the end of the year there were 11 blind home workers in the county.

During the year 113 Berkshire residents and 22 evacuees had, or were, receiving domiciliary assistance.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made for increasing the number of beds by crowding and using other rooms at the institutions. Certain alterations and additions of sanitary arrangements were necessary. Finally, increased accommodation was made as follows :—

Newbury	...	...	Increase of	72	beds.
Wallingford	...	...	"	64	"
Maidenhead	...	...	"	46	"
Wokingham	...	...	"	54	"
Windsor	...	...	"	51	"
Wantage	...	...	"	28	"

At all these institutions there is a shortage of nurses' accommodation and efforts will be made to employ the extra nurses required from the local nursing organisations. All the institutions, with the exception of Windsor, are classified as Grade 2 hospitals, *i.e.* for convalescent patients. Windsor Institution has been made a Grade 1A hospital and huts to accommodate 260 patients have been erected.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 1,277 registered cowkeepers in the county, a considerable increase compared with the figure for the previous year. The number of persons licensed during the year for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk was 131 and for Accredited Milk 249.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 25 empowers local authorities to take samples of milk consigned to their district from outside areas. If, on examination, any sample is found to contain tubercle bacilli, notice to this effect is sent to the medical officer of health of the area in which the milk was produced. During the year notices were received from the following authorities :—

Local Authority.	Number of samples containing tubercle bacilli.
East Berks United Sanitary Districts ...	1
London County Council	2
Middlesex County Council	2

The milk from which these samples were taken was stated to have been produced in the following districts in this county :—

	Number of samples.
Bradfield Rural	1
Easthampstead Rural	1
Faringdon Rural	1
Wantage Rural	1
Wokingham Rural	1

On receipt of such notices, information is forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who arranges any necessary investigations. The number of cows found to be suffering from tuberculosis as a result of these investigations was 5.

The County Agricultural Instruction Department takes samples of milk for bacteriological examination at regular intervals and undertakes a large amount of advisory work in connection with clean milk production.

Reports are also submitted to the Milk and Dairies Committee on the sanitary circumstances of premises where milk is produced.

The following table shows the number of visits made by the Agricultural Organiser's staff during 1942 :—

(a) Previous to granting a licence for the production of a graded milk	94
(b) After the granting of a licence for the production of a graded milk	329
Number of milk samples taken for bacteriological examination	3,707
Number of samples submitted for investigation work (where trouble had to be traced)	137
Visits of advice apart from above	746

A. RICHMOND,

*County Medical Officer and
Chief Tuberculosis Officer.*

11 ABBOT'S WALK,
READING.

21 December, 1943.

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